

OFFICIAL
MATCH
PROGRAMME
PRICE: 10p

ANGLO-SCOTTISH
TOURNAMENT

Blackburn Rovers

versus **BOLTON WANDERERS**

Wednesday, August 10th, 1977

Kick-off 7-30 p.m.



Watch out for our **NEW**
MATCH DAY
MAGAZINE

when we play
SPURS
on Wednesday,
August 24

NEW design, including colour; packed with stories
and pictures . . . STILL only 15p for 20 pages

**YOU CAN'T AFFORD
TO MISS IT!**



TWO OF THE BEST

PETER THOMPSON — made his name with Preston, signed by Liverpool and became an outstanding winger at club and England level. Played more than 400 games for Liverpool (two championship medals, F.A. Cup-winner's medal), capped 14 times, and was in original squads for the 1966 and 1970 World Cups. A great club man, as Bolton would confirm.

DAVID WAGSTAFFE — made his name with Manchester City, then gave Wolves excellent service over a long spell, earning a reputation as one of the best uncapped wingers in English Soccer. Signed by Rovers towards the end of season 1975-76, and voted our Player of the Year last spring. A crowd-pleaser, with his exciting style of play.

Rovers Manager JIM SMITH

NO-ONE knows better than Ian Greaves, my opposite number at Bolton, how slender the margin can be between success and failure. Twice Bolton have gone within a hairsbreadth of climbing out of the Second Division, and twice they have seen rivals edge them out of contention.

The Rovers finished last season with 39 points, which left us in a comfortable 12th position in the table. It was suggested to me that had we lost 20 matches, instead of 18, we would have had to struggle to escape the relegation dog-fight . . . yet, by the same token, had we won 17 games instead of 15, we could have gone into the final stages of the season looking outside contenders for promotion.

Like ourselves, Bolton will be looking at their performances in the Anglo-Scottish tournament — against Second Division opposition — as a pointer to what might happen when the League games get under way. When I consider the quality of the sides in our division, I have to admit

THE FANS of Blackburn Rovers and Bolton have seen some great players at both clubs, over the years . . . and, at a time when some clubs — notably Manchester United (with Gordon Hill and Steve Coppel) and Liverpool (with Steve Heighway) — are giving wingers scope to shine again, local fans can reflect with pride that they have seen some good 'uns at Ewood and Burnden Park.

There was the era of **Bobby Langton**, who played for both the Rovers and Bolton. Here was a home-grown product who had pace and strength, who could beat a man and cross the ball like a bullet from the flank. Bobby became an England international. There was the era of **Bryan Douglas**, who tantalised and tormented opposing defenders with his trickery, and "Dougie" — also capped by England — made many goals for team-mates, as well as giving supporters around the country tremendous entertainment.

These days, many players who kicked off as out-and-out wingers find they often have to fit into a team pattern which demands that they occupy a mid-field role. **Willie Morgan**, for instance, has done such a job for Manchester United and Bolton, and **David Wagstaffe** (pictured right) has played his part in the Rovers' tactical schemes. "Waggy", though, has shown that he can still set the fans tingling with anticipation as he sets off on a run and takes on opponents. And in **Peter Thompson** (pictured left) Bolton have another such artist.

Peter's career might have come to a premature end when he lost his first-team place at Liverpool and he was hampered by injury. But he decided to give it a go with Bolton, and now he has extended his career by yet another season. Recalling Bolton's League Cup marathon against Newcastle a couple of seasons ago, United striker Alan Gowling says: "Peter gave us a hard time of it — he showed he could still create danger with his shrewd football brain and ability to get past defenders."

It's human nature to sigh for "the good old days" . . . but it is also true to say that wingers have always given the fans excitement and entertainment. And the Rovers and Bolton have had wingers who could do just that.

takes a look at the rivals and says...

it's difficult to predict what sort of pattern will emerge. On paper, it appears to me that the relegated clubs — Spurs, Sunderland and Stoke — may be stronger opposition than the clubs who have regained First Division status. But we must wait and see.

Sunderland is always a tremendous fixture, Spurs add glamour to the division, and Stoke provide opposition where the travelling isn't too far, so we can hope for support from our own fans, and City may well bring some to Ewood.

Naturally, four or five clubs will be hoping to establish themselves as front runners, and maintain their challenge throughout the season — Bolton, for instance, will be a good bet, in the eyes of many folk. But another dozen to 15 clubs, given a decent run of luck, could jump into the promotion reckoning . . . or they could be struggling, should they have a bit of a bad run.

I think that the Rovers have learned quite a few lessons during the two seasons we have

HERE'S A POINTER TO THE LEAGUE



been back in the Second Division — and that West Brom and Nottingham Forest provided examples for the rest of us. West Brom came from behind with a late run which saw them clinch promotion, at Bolton's expense, in their last away game; and Forest, whose manager, Brian Clough, was playing it in low key right to the end, snapped out of an indifferent spell to make it into third place at the finish.

I wouldn't like to make any hard-and-fast forecasts about which three clubs will come out on top, this time, but it does seem to me that there are going to be considerably more than the four or five candidates of recent seasons. Above all, the main lesson to be learned is that even though you may be lagging a bit, if you can keep in touch right the way through, you can get to the promotion post with a final sprint.

**Yes, Wingers can
still set the
crowd alight...**



WELCOME TO BOLTON WANDERERS



FEW CLUBS have suffered more cruel disappointment than Bolton, in successive years, for twice they have seen promotion snatched from their grasp. In season 1975-76, West Brom won a vital match at Boundary Park against Oldham, and Bolton, although still with a game to play, knew they were bound to be unlucky.

After 42 matches, Sunderland had 56 points, and they were followed by Bristol City and West Brom, each on 53 points. Bolton trailed three points, so even a victory in their final game meant there was no way they could close the gap. And last season Bolton found themselves fighting desperately to finish in third place, behind Wolves and Chelsea — but in the end, it was Nottingham Forest who bridged the gap, with 52 points, and the Wanderers, with 51 points, had to settle for fourth place on goal average, with Blackpool fifth.

With goalkeeper Barrie Siddall transferred to Sunderland, Bolton called on JIM McDONAGH, who had been signed from Rotherham, and they also have TERRY POOLE, who was one of Ian Greaves's players in the days when he managed Huddersfield. So the Wanderers are well covered in this department.

Bolton's back-four line has strength and experience, although last season there were injury problems. Club skipper JOHN RITSON was one casualty, and this Liverpool-born player, who arrived at Burnden Park from schoolboy Soccer, will be hoping for an injury-free run this time. MIKE WALSH, who joined Bolton from school, has shown that he can step up and operate equally well in midfield or at full-back, and he will be aiming to reinforce his claims to a place.

Bolton's central defenders are two of the most reliable in the game — PAUL JONES and SAM ALLARDYCE are strong players, good in the air . . . and capable of supporting attacks and getting their names on the scoresheet. Jones, an England Under-23 player, hails from Ellesmere Port, and Allardyce, born in Birmingham, proved a real find, being voted the club's Player of the Year at the end of his first full season. Last term, he impressed even more.

No defender can call on more experience than TONY DUNNE, who for many years was a star with Manchester United and the Republic of Ireland international team. A member of United's 1968 European Cup-winning side, Dunne has been a regular since he moved to Burnden Park, and he is noted for his cool and cultured play.

In midfield, Bolton have a blend of youth and experience, with PETER REID impressing more and more each season, and WILLIE MORGAN and ROY GREAVES adding their know-how. Morgan, who made his name with Burnley, was a six-figure signing by Manchester United, then he rejoined Burnley and was snapped up by Bolton. A member of Scotland's 1974 World Cup squad, he has been playing for Chicago Stings, in the U.S., during the summer.

SO NEAR TWICE... NOW CAN THEY MAKE IT THIRD-TIME LUCKY?

Reid, spotted while playing for Huyton school-boys, graduated through the juniors to win a first-team place, and he has shown he reads a game well and passes with accuracy. Local-lad Greaves has been at Bolton more than 10 years now, and this non-stop worker can also get among the goals.

ALAN WALDRON and BRIAN SMITH are also midfield players, though both have found their opportunities limited. And, of course, Bolton signed RAY TRAIN from Sunderland shortly before last season's transfer deadline. Train began his career with Carlisle, and cost Sunderland the best part of £100,000. Bolton paid a hefty fee, also, to land him.

PETER THOMPSON'S decision to play on for another season was a welcome bonus for Bolton, especially as they couldn't be sure if Willie Morgan would be back from the U.S. in time for the Anglo-Scottish tournament matches, and they will also be hoping fervently that they don't run into injury problems up front again this season.

STEVE TAYLOR was undoubtedly missed when he was out of action last term. For with NEIL WHATMORE — 31 goals in all games — he formed a twin striking partnership which got among the goals. Taylor's return came too late to boost Bolton's final bid for promotion. GARRY JONES, too, will be hoping that this season he can get among the goals and command a regular first-team place again.

HAVE YOU GOT
YOUR

**SEASON
TICKET**

YET ?

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Sunderland	42	24	8	10	67	36	56
Bristol City	42	19	15	8	59	35	53
West Brom	42	20	13	9	50	33	53
Bolton W.	41	19	12	10	61	37	50

● One game to go . . . but the promotion battle was lost (above). That was Bolton, two seasons ago. Last spring, they missed out again, as the final table showed (below).

	P.	W.	D.	L.	F.	A.	Pts.
Wolves	42	22	13	7	84	45	57
Chelsea	42	21	13	8	73	53	55
Nottingham F.	42	21	10	11	77	43	52
Bolton W.	42	20	11	11	75	54	51
Blackpool	42	17	17	8	58	42	51

Bolton have been aiming to strengthen their attack, and they have lost one striker with the departure of Hugh Curran, who is now with Oxford United, yet despite their problems last season, the Wanderers scored 75 League goals, and only promoted Nottingham Forest (77) and Wolves (84) bettered that tally.

Bolton would almost certainly have been home and dry, had they not faltered in their final matches and dropped points unexpectedly, and this lapse, as much as anything, robbed them of the third promotion place. Despite several tempting offers, manager IAN GREAVES has made it clear he intends to stay at Burnden Park, and Bolton have rewarded the fine work he has already done with a long-term contract.

Wanderers will be anxious to do well in the Anglo-Scottish tournament, to prove to themselves and their supporters that the disappointment of last season has been firmly put behind them, and that they can once again stay with the pacesetters in the quest for promotion. For the Rovers, tonight's game will be a test, too, against a side which has consistently been on the point of a return to Division 1, and a convincing display by the Rovers could put our own chances in clearer perspective.

IF YOU haven't already become a season-ticket holder at Ewood Park, now is your chance to do so . . . and to save yourself a considerable amount of money, in the process. All the prices quoted opposite include VAT, and the savings are based on 21 first-team matches. Depending on where you book your ticket, you can save between £3.50 and £17.75.

If you're a senior citizen, you are reminded that you must produce a pension book when purchasing a season ticket for Block "C" of the Nuttall-street Stand, while all juveniles under 12 must produce birth certificates when purchasing season tickets. Season tickets may be obtained on application at the Ticket Office at Ewood Park between 9.30 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday, and between 9.30 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. on a Saturday

MATCH-BALL SPONSORSHIP

Date		Sponsor
Aug.		
" 10	Bolton Wanderers	Blackburn Combination
" 24	Tottenham Hotspur	R. Simpson
" 27	Cardiff City	Graham & Brown
Sept 10	Blackpool	Mrs. C. Howarth
" 24	Orient	Ed. Baldwin
Oct. 8	Charlton Athletic	Miller-Shallcross & Co.
" 22	Stoke City	Bancroft (Shuttles & Bobbins) Ltd.
Nov. 5	Southampton	Mrs. C. Howarth
" 19	Mansfield Town	B.R.F.C. London Branch of Supporters' Club
Dec. 3	Crystal Palace	Niall Malone, Dundalk
" 17	Millwall	R. N. Crooke, Org. & Work Study
" 27	Sunderland	A. Ainsworth & Son Ltd.
Jan. 2	Notts. County	J. B. Martin (Velvets) Ltd.
" 7	F.A. CUP (3)	
" 21	Fulham	Tom Martins
" 28	F.A. CUP (4)	
Feb. 11	Luton Town	Mrs. Nightingale
" 25	Oldham Athletic	Hobkirk Sewing Machines Centre
Mar. 11	Bristol Rovers	Shopfitters (Lancs.) Ltd.
" 24	Hull City	Tanners Arms
" 27	Burnley	David Pratt (Sportswear)
Apr. 8	Brighton & H. A.	D. B. Hollen & Co. Ltd.
" 22	Sheffield United	Edgar Pickering
" 26	Bolton Wanderers	Arnold Eatough & Sons
Aug. 31	LEAGUE CUP (2)	
Oct. 26	LEAGUE CUP (3)	

KIT SPONSORS LIST

Mercer Bros.
Whittle, Henshaw & Hindle
Stadia Catering
J. Wilde
Blackburn Corrugated Paper
Major J. Greenhalgh
Saxon Inn
Grimpa Supplies
J. H. Bolton - Darwen
Niall Malone
Whalley Graphics

GROUND (Adult)	£13 (save £5.90)
GROUND (Juvenile under-12)	£7 (save £3.50)
ENCLOSURE	£15 (save £6)
RIVERSIDE STAND (Reserved seat)	£20 (save £11.50)
*RIVERSIDE STAND (Double reserved seat)	£30 (save £17.25)
NUTTALL STREET STAND (reserved seat)	£25 (save £17)
*NUTTALL STREET STAND (Double reserved seat)	£40 (save £17.75)
PRIVATE BOX "A" (Reserved seat)	£35 (save £17.50)
NUTTALL STREET STAND "C" Block (Senior citizens only — unreserved seat)	£10
*These consist of double tickets for two reserved seats for one adult and one juvenile.	

We'll meet up again with Stoke, Sunderland and Spurs

PROMOTION RACE COULD BE MORE WIDE OPEN

LANCASHIRE derby games against Bolton, Blackpool, Burnley and Oldham Athletic, and a renewal of rivalry with relegated Sunderland, Stoke and Spurs . . . all of this means that the Rovers' supporters have plenty to anticipate during the coming League season.

In 10 days' time, we kick off with a visit to Notts. County, who for a spell looked like figuring in the promotion finish last season (they wound up in eighth place), and our first League match at Ewood Park features TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR, relegation companions of Stoke and Sunderland last spring.

After struggling for two or three years, Spurs finally dropped out of the First Division a few months ago, finishing bottom of the table, with 33 points. They will be anxious to regain top-flight status straight away, and they still have some big names in their side . . . one thinks of Steve Perryman, Ralph Coates, Scottish star John Duncan, and Pat Jennings.

Rovers' fans will be eager to see this first home League fixture against a side which cost hundreds of thousands of pounds — Spurs also spent more than £200,000 when they recruited Peter Taylor from Crystal Palace and Ian Moores from Stoke, and they signed Don McAllister from Bolton. STOKE, who had been in Division 1 for 15 years, are under new management, with their former player, George Eastham, striving to take them back to the top flight in his first season.

Two former Rovers players, Peter Dobing and Roy Vernon, finished up at Stoke, and in more recent times City have had star names such as Peter Shilton, Alan Hudson and Jimmy Greenhoff in their ranks. Now they are in a transitional spell, having signed two or three new players, after doing some unloading, and above all they will be trying to bolster their scoring, for lack of goals (they managed only 28) cost them their First Division place.

SUNDERLAND have many links with Lancashire — Jimmy Adamson is their manager, and among their players are Mick Docherty, Colin Waldron, Barrie Siddall and Jeff Clarke, who played respectively for Burnley, Bolton and Manchester City. One season only in Division 1 was a bitter disappointment to the Roker club, whose fans make Sunderland among the best-supported in the country on away grounds. Doubtless we shall be hearing them at Ewood Park!

With five Lancashire clubs, and the three relegated clubs, all aiming to make an impact in the Second Division, it seems the promotion race could be more wide open than it has been for two or three seasons, and the likes of Southampton and Sheffield United will also have ambitions about breaking out of Division 2. So it promises to be a season of tremendous interest — especially if the Rovers can keep pace with the leaders!

FIRST TEAM FIXTURES SEASON 1977-78

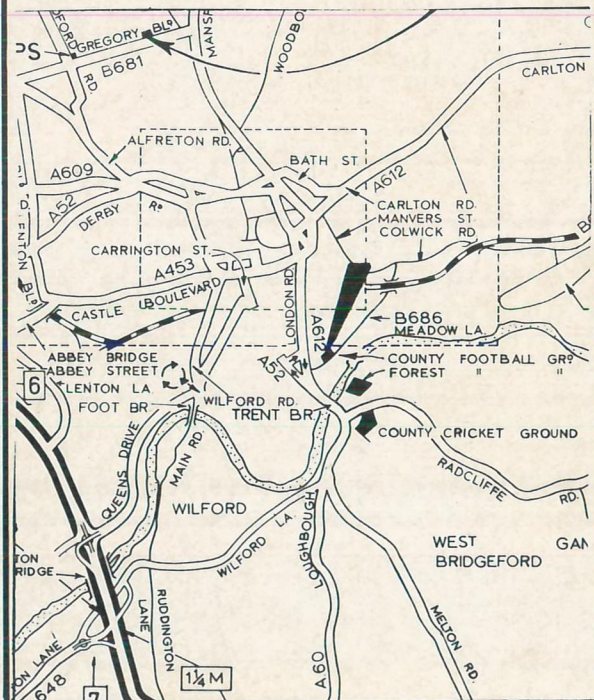
DATE	OPPONENTS	GROUND
Aug.	20 Notts County	A
	24 Tottenham Hotspur	H
	27 Cardiff City	H
	31 League Cup 2	
Sept.	3 Fulham	A
	10 Blackpool	H
	17 Luton Town	A
	24 Orient	H
Oct.	1 Oldham Athletic	A
	4 Bolton Wanderers	A
	8 Charlton Athletic	H
	15 Bristol Rovers	A
	22 Stoke City	H
	26 League Cup 3	
	29 Hull City	A
Nov.	5 Southampton	H
	12 Millwall	A
	19 Mansfield Town	H
	26 Brighton & Hove Al. (1)	A
	30 League Cup 4	
Dec.	3 Crystal Palace	H
	10 Sheffield Utd.	A
	17 Millwall (2)	H
	26 Burnley	A
	27 Sunderland	H
	31 Tottenham Hotspur	A
1978		
Jan.	2 Notts County	H
	7 F.A. Cup 3	
	14 Cardiff City	A
	18 League Cup 5	
	21 Fulham	H
	28 F.A. Cup 4	
Feb.	4 Blackpool	A
	8 League Cup S.F.	
	11 Luton Town	H
	15 League Cup S.F.	
	18 Orient (5)	A
	25 Oldham Athletic	H
Mar.	4 Charlton Athletic	A
	11 Bristol Rovers (6)	H
	18 Stoke City (LCF)	A
	24 Hull City	H
	25 Sunderland	A
	27 Burnley	H
Apr.	1 Southampton	A
	8 Brighton & Hove A (SF)	H
	15 Mansfield Town	A
	22 Sheffield Utd	H
	26 Bolton Wanderers	H
	29 Crystal Palace	A
May	6 F.A. Cup Final	

Travel Trail

NOTTS. COUNTY away — that's the Rovers' first League assignment. And if you're driving to Nottingham, here is your R.A.C. route from Blackburn. A667 via Haslingden to Edenfield, junction A680, A680 to Rochdale, junction A627(M), and A627(M), then A627 via Oldham to Ashton-under-Lyne, junction A635. Then A635/A6018 via Stalybridge to Mottram, junction A57, A57/A6016 to Glossop, junction A624, and A624 via Hayfield to Chapel-en-le-Frith, junction A623. On A623/A619 via Baslow to Chesterfield, junction A617, A617 to Heath, junction M1, and M1 south to intersection 26, junction with A610, and A610 to Nottingham (total 99 miles).

MOTORWAY route: A667 via Haslingden to Edenfield, junction A680, A680 to Rochdale, junction A627(M), and A627(M), to junction M62. Then M62 eastbound (follow "Leeds" and "North" signs) to Lofthouse, junction M1, and M1 south to intersection 26, junction with A610, and A610 to Nottingham (total 126 miles).

The Meadow-lane ground is a mile and a half south of the city centre, near the junction of the A60 and A52 (Grantham Road). Approaching Nottingham from M1, turn right on to ring road (Western Boulevard), continue with ring road to Clifton Flyover, right off the flyover as signposted M1, right again at roundabout with signs for Grantham (down Clifton-lane and Wilford-lane to Loughborough-road), and left for Trent Bridge. County's ground is just over Trent Bridge, on the right.



DON'T MISS THE BUS . . . GO AHEAD WITH US !

THE ROVERS are going places, and if you want to be part of our team, you're more than welcome to join us. What's more, we're bringing the Rovers to everyone's door ! Our double-decker bus is touring every district around Blackburn, so you'll be hearing from the members of our mobile "team" who will be knocking on every door. We hope YOU'LL participate by rallying round the Rovers and becoming really involved with your home-town football club. In fact, if you want to join our team, pop down to Ewood Park any evening (Monday to Friday) around 6 p.m., and we'll put you in the picture.

WANT TO WIN A CAR FOR 10p ?

A **LADA CAR** is the top prize in our new, super draw . . . and there are big cash prizes, too ! Buy a ticket (only 10p) or a £1 book of tickets, and you could hit the jackpot. You can get your tickets from our agents, from the Development Association office, or at home games (books must be returned by September 26th). Here's YOUR chance to strike it rich !

AWAY TRAVEL CLUB

A **NEW COMMITTEE** of the Away Travel Club has been formed, and we are finalising plans for the first half of the season. We are organising a British Rail group-travel scheme for the first away League game at Notts. County on Saturday, August 20th, and we hope to include the cost of a seat for the match in the overall price. Closing date, Saturday, August 13th. Full details from the Development Association office.

CALLING JUNIOR ROVERS !

A **MEETING** of all Junior Rovers (and Mums and Dads who want the youngsters to be able to enjoy watching their football) will be held in the Box "A" lounge at Ewood Park on Thursday, September 22nd, at 1-30 p.m. Don't forget that's holiday time, so the youngsters will be off school. All Junior Rovers and interested parents are invited to this get-together.

CHORLEY BRANCH OF THE BLACKBURN ROVERS DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

This will take place on Saturday, 27th August. Depart Chorley approx. 10-15 a.m. arriving at Ewood Park at approx. 1-30 p.m.

Would anyone interested in sponsoring or participating in the above walk, please contact: Mr. K. McCarthy, 27 Rookwood Avenue, Chorley.



Lion Ales

*The Best Beer
in
the North West*

How they line up

Rovers

- 1 Paul BRADSHAW
 - 2 John CURTIS
 - 3 John BAILEY
 - 4 Stuart METCALFE
 - 5 Glenn KEELEY
 - 6 Graham HAWKINS
 - 7 Noel BROTHERSTON
 - 8 Kevin HIRD
 - 9 Bobby MITCHELL
 - 10 Mick WOOD
 - 11 David WAGSTAFFE
- Sub: Bobby SVARC
Goal Sub: John BUTCHER

Bolton Wanderers

- 1 Jim McDONAGH
 - 2 John RITSON
 - 3 Tony DUNNE
 - 4 Roy GREAVES
 - 5 Mike WALSH
 - 6 Sam ALLARDYCE
 - 7 Ray TRAIN
 - 8 Neil WHATMORE
 - 9 Steve TAYLOR
 - 10 Peter REID
 - 11 Peter THOMPSON
- Sub: Alan WALDRON
Goal Sub: Terry POOLE

Man in the middle

TONIGHT'S referee is Mr. MIKE LOWE, who comes from Sheffield and is one of the best-known referees on the Football League list. Mr. Lowe began his refereeing career in the local Sheffield leagues almost 20 years ago, and he progressed through the Central League to the full League list in 1972, since when he has regularly handled top matches. He has also been a linesman for the F.A. Amateur Cup Final and for a European Cup match in Sweden.

Married, with three children, he is a news-agent. He carries out work for his local referees' association, enjoys training and mixing with professional players — he feels this liaison has mutual advantages — and during the close season he is a keen tennis player.

LINESMEN:

Mr. J. J. Shawcross and Mr. T. A. Jones.

NEXT HOME MATCH

FOOTBALL LEAGUE COMPETITION

ROVERS versus TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

KICK-OFF 7-30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24th, 1977

Don't miss it!

Sports Pink

**Your guide to all local
and national sports -
- EVERY SATURDAY**

LANCASHIRE EVENING TELEGRAPH